

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00270 131722Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 /094 W
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R 131840Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1302

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UMISSION USUN 582

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 13

1. STORIES ON ADF COLLECTION HEAVY WEAPONS IN LEBANON
AND KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT DOMINATED SYRIAN MEDIA.
PRESS BANNERED: "ARMS COLLECTION OCCURS ON SCHEDULE.
CITICENS OF SHOUF CONTINUE TO WELCOME DETERRENT FORCES.
IMPORTANT ENCOUNTER IN CAIRO TO CONSOLIDATE UNIFIED ARAB
ACTION." ARTICLES REPORTED THAT SARKIS HAD CHAIRED MEETING
OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW REPORTS ON COLLECTION
HEAVY ARMS AND WITHDRAWAL OF REGULAR PALESTINIAN FORCES
FROM LEBANON. ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT COLLECTION EFFORTS
WERE PROCEEDING "IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER." ARTICLE
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WENT ON TO STATE THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE
MINISTER BUTROS HAD CONFIRMED REPORTS OF LEBANON'S
REQUEST TO EXTEND ADF FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS BEYOND
ITS APRIL 25 EXPIRATION DATE.

2. HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION
IN ALL DAILIES. MENA DISPATCHES QUOTED IN WHICH IT

REPORTED THAT POLITICAL OBSERVERS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS MEETING BECAUSE IT COMES DURING DELICATE PERIOD AND HAS IMPORTANCE FOR JOINT ARAB ACTION TO FACE COMING STAGE AND CONFRONT "ISRAELI MANEUVERS."

3. ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH DEALT WITH PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING. ARTICLE CAPTIONED: "NECESSITY OF CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH SYRIA TO STRENGTHEN MARCH OF PEACE IN LEBANON AND IMPORTANCE OF SYRIA-EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN MEETING." ARTICLE REPORTED DECISION TO RECONVENE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON JAN. 22 IN DAMASCUS TO COMPLETE FORMATION OF PNC (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS)

4. ABU DAUD EPISODE ONLY RECEIVED PASSING COVERAGE IN PRESS.

5. EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH ANALYZED CURRENT SYRIAN AGREEMENTS WITH JORDAN AND EGYPT. SAID HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF "INTEGRATED STRATEGIC ACT." COLUMNIST TALKED ABOUT EMERGING UNITY AS "A DETERRENT SECURITY BELT CREATING A NEW FACT AND COMPLETING ENCIRCLEMENT OF ISRAEL." EDITORIAL DEALT CRITICALLY WITH U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. CLAIMED ARABS HAD IT WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITY TO INFLICT HEAVY COSTS ON U.S. FOR ITS "SUPPORT OF BASE OF EXPANSION AND AGGRESSION." EDITORIAL FURTHER ASSERTED THAT U.S. HAD REALIZED THAT ISRAEL HAD LOST ITS ABILITY TO PERFORM TASKS REQUIRED BY IMPERIALISM IN REGION. ENDED BY CASTING DOUBT UPON AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE VIA GENEVA MEPC.
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6. SECOND AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT IF HEAVY WEAPONS SUCCESSFULLY COLLECTED, THEN LEBANON WILL HAVE OVERCOME ITS CRISIS AND COULD PASS ON TO NEW STAGE. EDITORIAL TALKED OMINOUSLY OF CONSTRUCTING LEBANON ALONG NEW NATIONAL LINES WHICH WILL ALLOW IT TO ASSUME ITS "NATURAL ROLE" AS A CONFRONTATION STATE, THEREBY COMPLETING ENCIRCLEMENT OF "ENEMY". LA-THAWRA EDITORIAL ON PALESTINIANS URGED ARMED STRUGGLE WITHIN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND EMPHASIS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL UNITY. URGED PALESTINIANS TO REJECT "CAPITULATIONIST CONCESSIONS" AND "POLITICAL NIHILISM."
MURPHY

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